

2. (Original) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the video content has been encoded for compression using prior art H263 standards.

3. (Original) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the audio content has been encoded for compression using prior art MP3 standards.

~~4. (Canceled) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the video content has been pre-encoded deriving semantic content from the video to construct a searchable index of content features;~~

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing enhanced features for streamed video content over a network, ~~comprised of~~ the apparatus comprising:

a) a web server and a media server, the media server including a production module configured to extract semantic content from the video content, the media server providing one or more searchable databases storing thereon the semantic content;

b) a client player configured to enable offering an enhanced feature set to the an end user to search the one or more searchable databases of semantic content, the client player further configured to enable the end user to select an enhanced feature represented by selected semantic content; and

c) means of for initiating, and maintaining, modifying and terminating a streaming session between the media server and client player, wherein said modifying is in response to the selected enhanced feature.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as defined in claim 4 5, wherein the video content has been encoded for compression using prior art H263 standards.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as defined in claim 4 5, wherein the audio content has been encoded for compression using prior art MP3 standards.

~~8. (Canceled) The apparatus as defined in claim 1-5, wherein the video content has been pre-encoded deriving semantic content from the video to construct a searchable index of content features.~~

9. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the semantic content is extracted based on one or more criteria selected from the group comprising color, texture, motion, shape, important objects, performers, directors, keywords, movie category, scene change information, story units, audio features and thumbnails.

10. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein extracting the semantic content includes one or more operations selected from the group comprising video segmentation, scene change detection, key frame extraction, and visual content extraction.

11. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the extracted semantic content is used to provide a storyboard.

12. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more searchable databases are searchable based on criteria selected from the group comprising keywords, search objects, key frame features and audio features.

13. (New) The apparatus of claim 5, further comprising a search engine operable by the end user to search the one or more databases.

14. (New) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the production module is configured to extract semantic content based on one or more criteria selected from the group comprising color, texture, motion, shape, important objects, performers, directors, keywords, movie category, scene change information, story units, audio features and thumbnails.

15. (New) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the production module is configured to extract the semantic content using one or more operations selected from the group comprising video segmentation, scene change detection, key frame extraction, and visual content extraction.

16. (New) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the production module is configured to provide a storyboard based on the extracted semantic content.

17. (New) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the one or more searchable databases are searchable based on criteria selected from the group comprising keywords, search objects, key frame features and audio features.

REMARKS

Claim Amendments

Applicant has amended claim 1, currently on file, to include the steps of “extracting semantic content from the video content,” “providing one or more searchable databases storing thereon the semantic content,” “enabling searching of the one or more searchable databases of semantic content by the end user through manipulation of the client player,” “selecting by the end user an enhanced feature represented by selected semantic content,” and “modifying the streaming of the video content in response to the enhanced feature.” Support for these amendments can be found throughout the specification as originally filed, for example in paragraphs [0024], [0026], [0028], [0033], [0038], [0039], [0061], [0062], [0065] and Figures 3, 5 and 7, as published by the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Applicant has also amended claim 5, currently on file, to include the phrases “the media server including a production module configured to extract semantic content from the video content, the media server providing one or more searchable databases of the semantic content,” “a client player configured to enable an end user to search the one or more searchable databases of semantic content, the client player further configured to enable the end user to select an enhanced feature represented by selected semantic content,” and “means for initiating, maintaining, modifying and terminating a streaming session between the media server and client player, wherein said modifying is in response to the selected enhanced feature.” Support for these amendments can be found throughout the specification as originally filed, for example in